

Editorial

This issue of the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* contains several articles that discuss challenging or restrictive situations the church faces in society. Fatal Flirting: The Nazi State and the Seventh-day Adventist Church looks at the danger of placing too high a priority on maintaining the structure of the church in the face of a repressive regime. Shaking Hands with the (D)evil: Adventism and Communism chronicles some of the ways a communist government seeks to divide, weaken, and ultimately destroy Christian faith. The interview with Pastor Isaiah also offers insight into the difficulties of fulfilling the gospel commission in communist Vietnam. Rebekah Liu's Viewpoint offers additional insight into the dangers of using questionable methods to draw people into membership as she examines several aspects of the history of Adventism in China.

Not all the challenges the church faces are government related, for unfortunately within the church there are still women and men who reflect the race, ethnic, and tribal issues of society. Recent events in Rwanda and Kenya illustrate the ugly human side of life that resulted in Adventists killing Adventists on the basis of tribal loyalties and pressures. Even when race, ethnicity, or tribal loyalties do not result in violence, they often discriminate against equal access to education and advancement in the Church.

Is it possible that Adventists are so concerned with teaching the distinctive doctrines of the church that they have neglected to teach adequately on the implications of being a new creation in Jesus Christ? Why is it that a growing number of Adventist young people are entering the military with little if any thought of the consequences that they will be called on to kill and destroy human life? Why has noncombatancy waned within the United States? Why are issues of poverty, injustice, and suffering not given higher prominence in Adventism? Kabena Donkor looks at these topics as he reflects on how Adventists have related to these societal issues.

David Shenk offers case studies that illustrate the positive results that can occur when the Body of Christ stresses reconciliation and what can happen when good biblical teaching stresses the importance of peaceful coexistence. Adventists could learn much from our Mennonite friends in this vital area.

This issue marks the beginning of the sixth year for the *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies*. Along with a new look the editorial staff welcomes Danica Kulemeka as the graphic designer and Abraham Guerrero as the managing editor.

Bruce L. Bauer, Editor